

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-16 are pending in the above-identified application. Claim 2 has been incorporated into claim 1, such that this change to claim 1 finds full support in the original disclosure of the present application.

Specification and Claim Informalities

The specification has been objected to because of some improper spacing in the text. Claims 1, 9, 10 and 14 have been objected to because of improper spacing.

In response to the above-noted objections, it is noted that claims with proper spacing have been provided above. In addition, a copy of a properly formatted Substituted Specification is enclosed. Consequently, it is requested that the above-noted objections be withdrawn.

Allowed Claims

Claims 2-4, 6-8, 10-12 and 14-16 have been indicated as being allowable, and have merely been objected to as depending upon rejected base claims. Claim 2 has been incorporated into claim 1. Since all of the pending claims ultimately depend from amended claim 1, all of the presently pending claims 1 and 3-16 have been

placed into allowable form. Consequently, it is requested that the present application now be placed into condition for allowance.

Removal of Issues Under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and 103(a)

Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Takemura '830 (USP 6,273,830).

Claims 5, 9 and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takemura '830.

As noted above, allowable claim 2 has been incorporated into claim 1. This removes the basis for each of the above-noted rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and 103(a). Consequently, it is requested that these rejections be withdrawn.

Conclusion


It is submitted for the reasons stated above that the present claims define patentable subject matter such that this application should now be placed condition for allowance.

If any questions arise regarding the above matters, please contact Applicant's representative, Andrew D. Meikle (Reg. No. 32,868), in the Washington Metropolitan Area at the phone number listed below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment(s): Substitute Specification

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